

Daniel Shoemaker Farm (David R. Hull Farm)
.2 mile west of Mountain Road
Wallpack Center Vicinity
Walpack Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-820

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DANIEL SHOEMAKER FARM (David R. Hull Farm)

NJ-820

Location: .2 mile west of Mountain Road, about 1 mile south of Wallpack Center, Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Lake Maskenozha Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.509900.4554440.

Present Owner: United States Government.

Present Use: Demolished by 1980.

Significance: The Daniel Shoemaker House is a well-preserved example of a substantial rural dwelling of the early nineteenth century. The main portion was built, according to a datestone, in 1822. The carpentry has been attributed to John Turn, Sr. A rear kitchen wing with a large cooking fireplace probably antedated the main structure by a few years. Because of the high water level at the site, the structure has a storage room on the main floor, rather than a cellar. Also on the property is a springhouse with 1829 and 1854 datestones.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The five-bay center-hall symmetry of this stone house is marred by an additional door at the north end of the east (front) elevation, where logically two windows would have been.
2. Condition of fabric: excellent.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The front, two-and-a-half-story portion measures 40'-4" across its five-bay front by 23'-3" deep. The two-story stone kitchen wing measures 20'-4" x 18'-6". The one-story frame kitchen wing measures 9'-5" x 18'-6".
2. Foundation: Rubble stonework.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rubble stone bearing wall, with exception of the second story of the dining (old kitchen) wing and the later kitchen addition, which are wood frame with novelty siding. The siding is painted white and the stonework is a natural buff color.

4. Structural system, framing: Broadaxe, hand-hewn beams support second-floor areas of both old sections. Beams in rear part average 6" x 8", at 36" on center and spanning approximately 20' between bearing walls. In the front portion there is a major spanning element running the long direction with smaller elements tying into the central beam. These range in size from 3" by 5" to 5" by 8", at 30" on center and spanning approximately 12'. Beams are notched and pegged. The roof structure in the dining wing is inaccessible but it is believed to be relatively modern since this part was raised a half story at some time. The roof in the front section has no ridge beam. There are pegged cross braces at third points. The roof on the kitchen addition is modern.
5. Porches, Stoops, Bulkheads: None; however, the embedded wood member above the front entrance door suggests that a small shed roof entrance porch was once located here.
6. Chimneys: One large brick chimney just to the left of center on the west wall of the original kitchen. Two interior brick chimneys on the front section--one at north gable wall, one at south.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance is original with a four-light transom. The small plank door to the cellar (also at front elevation) appears to be original. This door is unusual in that it is barely 6' high. There is a dutch door to the dining area and two doors to the kitchen. None of these appear to be original. The kitchen doors and frames are white; all others are red.
 - b. Windows and Shutters: The front facade has five windows at the second floor, each with a six-over-six-light sash, and pegged at the top corners. The first-floor front windows are framed but have nine-over-six-light sashes and wood panel shutters. The other windows generally have six-over-six-light and four-over-four-light sashes. All windows and trim are painted white.
8. Roof: The gable roof, covered with wood shingles, has a boxed eave with a 16" overhang.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans

- a. First floor: The house is basically a T-shape in three sections: the front two-and-a-half story portion with center

hall, root cellar to the north and parlor to the south; the central portion, now a dining room, with the old kitchen fireplace; and the modern rear kitchen wing.

- b. Second floor: In the front portion, there are two large bedrooms, both with fireplaces, opening off either side of a central stairway landing. There is also a modern bath which was originally a sewing room and clothes storage. The second floor over the present dining room is connected to the ground floor by a separate stair and has no passage to the front portion at that level. It was originally a loft space but the roof was raised a half story in the renovation of 1947.
 - c. Attic: The attic was probably open originally, but at one time was partitioned into rooms for boarders.
- 2. Stairways: There are two stairways in the house. The simple open stairway in the foyer, front portion, leads to the second story and is enclosed from the second floor to the attic. It has a modestly tooled wooden handrail. The stairway to second floor in the central portion is a 180° spiral in a rectangular enclosure.
 - 3. Flooring: The original wood plank floors on the ground floor and second floor of the central portion were recovered with new plank flooring during renovation of 1947. Original floor is under the new. Floors upstairs in front portion appear to be original wide plank flooring. Cellar originally dirt; now concrete.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: In the front portion, the walls are wallpaper over plaster with a chair rail. The attic is unfinished. In the central portion, the walls are plastered on the ground floor and to the window line of the second floor. Above that, there is modern paneling. The kitchen has modern paneling.
 - 5. Doorways and doors: An original plank door connects the hall and the roof cellar. On the second floor, four-panel doors to the bedrooms and a rough plank door to the attic appear to be original.
 - 6. Decorative features and trim: The wood fireplace mantels in the parlor and on the second floor are original. The parlor mantel is decorated with reeding. The marble surround was probably added to the mantel at a later date. Other decorative wood features of interest include the chair rails and beaded corners on the door facings. The large walk-in fireplace in the old kitchen is also very impressive with a large 12" x 18" beam spanning a hearth opening of some 8'. The fireplace still has in it some of the old cooking utensils and the swing crane.

D. Site

1. General Setting: The house faces east on a gently rolling site in the valley west of Old Mine Road. The mountainside rises sharply west of the building site. The grounds surrounding the various buildings are well landscaped; this is one of the most impressive features of the farm. A large well-laid flagstone terrace extends across the front of the house and along the side to the kitchen wing entrance and around the rear.

2. Outbuildings:

a. Springhouse: Located just west of the house, this stone structure with a wood-shingled roof was built in two sections and bears two datestones. The oldest, western portion, dated 1829, was constructed by Daniel Shoemakersr. The second section, dated 1854, was built by Benjamin T. and Thomas T. Shoemaker, sons of D. Shoemaker. The springhouse has undergone alterations and has also been used as an icehouse and dairy.

The one-and-a-half-story structure measures 13'-7" x 41'-10", including the screened porch at the east end. The walls are rubble stonework, approximately 18" thick, except for the porch, which is wood framed. The stone walls are bearing, with the wood framed gable roof with joists at 24" on center being modern construction. The floor beams for the second floor are hand hewn, those in the root cellar (west room) being large, 6" x 8", and unevenly spaced, while those in the old milk storage room are 3" x 6".

These are three exterior doors. The entry door to the lower (main) level is 4' below grade with steps to the door under the porch. The simple plank door and frame are original. Other exterior doors also appear to be original. All doors and frames are painted white. There are four windows in the building. One on the south elevation and one on the north are horizontal rectangles with four lights, pegged construction, and trimmed in white. One window on the south elevation and one in the west end are larger, with three-over-three-light sash. There are circular wood frame vents in each gable, and horizontal vents on each long elevation. The wood-shingled gable roof has simple eaves and fascia.

While the porch level is at grade, the main floor is 4' below grade and the upper level is 3'-6" above grade. Each of the two rooms is simple, almost square and bare of furnishings or detail. On the main level, the eastern room has concrete milk storage troughs.

The upper level is also divided into two almost equal spaces, these being storage spaces. The proximity of the two north exterior doors to the second floor height is very awkward. At one door a modern framed stair leads to the second level; on the other the door opens onto the exposed structure of the floor but neither the ground floor nor the second floor is accessible through this door.

There are two stairways. A concrete stairway in the porch area leads to the lower level. On the north, a modern framed interior stairway connects the second floor with the exterior.

The flooring is three completely different coverings at the ground levels: modern flagstone in the porch, concrete in the front room, and dirt in the root cellar. The second floor is wood plank, not original.

The walls are plastered over the stone, except in the root cellar, which has exposed stone. The ceilings are exposed framing. There is an interior door between the root cellar and milk storage room, which is a simple plank door, probably original. Beside the simply framed doorway connecting the two rooms on the upper level is the 1829 datestone.

- b. Also located on the property are two barns, a large warehouse, and two guest houses.

Prepared by John McRae
Project Supervisor
HABS
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of John M. McRae (University of Florida) Project Supervisor, by Jack L. Finglass (Carnegie-Mellon University), Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois), architects, and Stephen J. Kirk (University of Kansas), student assistant architect, in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The architectural data was written by Mr. McRae, and edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George A. Eisenman in 1971.